

December 10, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Reilly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

The greater Brattleboro region has watched BCTV grow from a crew of confused volunteers at the very beginning to one of the preeminent local access stations in the country. It not only offers news and information about happenings in the area, but gives local people an opportunity to share their skills, experiences and creativity. In a relatively small community like ours, a simple phrase like "did you see on BCTV.....?" helps us to stay connected and informed. As a former member of the BCTV Board of Directors, I learned in great detail just how much work, devotion and good intentions go in to making BCTV an indispensable component in our community.

This local presence enables the residents of Brattleboro and Windham County to create and watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining "franchise fee" in an overly broad fashion to include "in-kind" support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Steven P. West
E. Dummerston, VT